



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**CDS Units – District 7 builds world's largest** – A new six-mile section of the Foothill Freeway (210) includes five continuous deflection separation (CDS) units. One of these is the largest ever constructed in the US – the cylindrical screen assembly on the unit is 15 ft in diameter by 15 ft tall. Much of the freeway is below grade which increases the volume of runoff needing to be controlled and treated. The stormwater controls are intended to anticipate future TMDL requirements, in particular, the need to achieve 100% control of trash. Search “CDS” at: <http://www.roadbridges.com/rb/index.cfm?CFID=5164576&CFTOKEN=27846506&fuseaction=showArticleSearchForm>

**Runoff to Crystal Cove – Group protests Caltrans corrective action** – Crystal Cove is part of the Irvine Coast Area of Special Biological Significance. The *California Ocean Plan* prohibits the discharge of waste into ASBS. The SWRCB has determined that storm water runoff from roadways is considered a “waste” and is therefore prohibited. (However, the SWRCB noted that it is “concerned also about the feasibility of preventing all discharges, and possible environmental effects of actions necessary to prevent discharges, to ASBS throughout the state.”) Last September, the Regional Board approved Caltrans proposal to capture the runoff which previously went to Crystal Cove and divert it to wetland filters prior to discharge to Los Trancos and Muddy creeks. Los Trancos is on the proposed 2002 303(d) list of impaired water bodies due to coliform bacteria. Orange County CoastKeeper has now filed an appeal with the Coastal Commission arguing that the proposed remedy is inadequate. <http://www.latimes.com/la-dpt-caltrans15apr15.0.1459913.story>

**Analytical Methods – EPA seeks comments** – The draft guidelines establish procedures for determining the sensitivity (i.e., detection and quantitation) of test methods. The method detection limit (MDL) is used to determine the lowest concentration at which a substance is detected or is *present* in a sample. The minimum level of quantitation (ML) is used to describe the lowest concentration of a substance that can be reliably *measured* in a sample. The determination of these levels become issues when pollutants concentrations are near or between the ML and MDL (for example with dioxins). <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods/det/index.html>

**Playa Vista – New wetlands treat stormwater; some criticism** – The newly created wetlands replace farmland which had been slated for development. Critics complain that the ponds should have been designed as saltwater wetlands; others complain that these are classified as “waters of the US” and therefore should not be used for treatment. (If designated as waters of the US” runoff would have to comply with water quality standards prior to entering the ponds.) As currently designed the wetlands will treat runoff from the adjacent development and will have to be dredged every 5 - 20 years to remove accumulated pollutants. <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-marsh18apr18.1.5939614.story>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/index.htm> Click: *Storm Water Bulletins*